"A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF OPPRESSION AND PLIGHT OF DALITS IN BABURAO BAGHUL'S SELECTED TRANSLATED WORKS"

A Research Proposal for Ph.D. Degree to be

Submitted to

SWAMI RAMANAND TEERTH MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY, NANDED

By

Research Student

Mr. Praful Pandit Bhosale

(M.A., NET)

Assistant Professor

Department of English

VPM's K.G.Joshi & N.G.Bedekar Autonomous College

Thane - 400601

Under the Supervision of

Dr. Shaikh Mahemud Abdul Raheman,

(M.A., M.Phil., NET, SET, B.Ed., Ph.D.)

Assistant Professor,

Department of English,

Shri Shivaji College, Parbhani - 431401

March 2022

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

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Introduction:

The word Dalit epitomizes suppressed, crushed and broken to pieces. The practice of untouchability and caste system created kerfuffle in the lives of dalits as they were at the bottom of the social hierarchy. Dalits were being treated out as a slaves and outcaste by the so called upper caste group. Instead of the word Dalit, the Government of India Act 1935 used the term Scheduled Caste first time for the downtrodden and dalit people. The constitution of India, in Article 341, defines Scheduled Caste. Any particular caste could be included in the category of Scheduled Caste only if the caste is extremely social, economical and educational backward due to the traditional practice of untouchability. It is essential to study their oppression, plight, exploitation and deprivation of all rights triggered chronic debility. The social iniquity and embargo, educational yoke, economic persecution and political backwardness has resulted in their chronic weakness. This weakness ultimately resulted into educational backwardness, lack of confidence, economic infirmity, political powerlessness and lower social status.

Literature imitates and mirrors the life and also allows us to understand the life on earth. Literature speaks about emotions, feelings and experiences. Literature represents vitriolic realities of the society. Dalit literature is being considered the literature of protest against the age old cruelty and ruthlessness, persecution and oppression, hypocritical ideals and humiliation suffered by the dalits in india. Dalit literature depicts an actual life of casteist morbidity and pangs of dalits in india and criticizes an abominable treatment meted out by upper class. Dalit literature plays pivotal role to register their travail and pains and to mobilize the dalit consciousness. It considers the strong voice of the downtrodden against the vile treatment. As dalit writing in india started to sprout in Maharashtra, taking dalits written records from eons of scarcity to an era of abundance, with the writings of prominent dalit writers and intellectuals like Baburao Baghul, Namadev Dhasal, Arjun Dangle, Daya Pawar and many others. These writers contributed their mite to criticize the ill practices and displays an explicable proclivity of upper caste people to treat dalits in the most uncivilized way.

Baburao Baghul, a staunch disciple of Dr. Babasaheb Ambekar's ideology and crusador for reform, criticized the scourge of casteism, untouchability and its indelible, virulence and

diabolic repercussions on the lives of dalits. He stressed on the chasm, barrenness, imperfection and ailment in the social hierarchy and economic structure of the society. In dalit literature Baburao Baghul considers the writer who did expose the iniquities, ugly and acrimonious side of the society. He, with unrelenting spirit, defies acerbic casteist society, persecution, inhumanity and injustice through his writings with the ultimate aim to correct the insensibility of the so called upper caste people. Baburao Baghul's writings symbolize the revolt against the caste discrimination cum slavery against the dalits and with this draconian description wants to promote values of liberty, equality and fraternity. His writings have not only challenged the main stream Marathi literature and criticism but also paved the way for new standards and dimensions of literary creativity and evaluation. He has given new identity and recognition to the subaltern literature word-wide as Dalit literature is increasingly translated into various other regional, national and international languages.

In the present study, therefore, this researcher would like to substantiate in detail the contribution of Baburao Baghul as a writer of the downtrodden, who has truly depicted oppression and plight of dalits due to caste system, to the Indian literature in English.

The title of this study is **"A Critical Assessment of Oppression and Plights of Dalits in Baburao Baghul's Selected Translated Works".**This study would be critically focused on his unique contribution and fidelity towards establishing an egalitarian society by plausible exposition of wanton results of oppression and plights of dalits due to the wicked practice of caste system. This researcher would like to apply the principle of Caste system, the violation of natural and basic rights which resulted in oppression and plight of dalits, specific to Dalit writings in order to analyse Baburao Baghul's literary works and interpret it in its true sense. Baburao Baghul has been neglected writer despite being a widely acclaimed writer of Dalit literature in terms of sustained research activity due to certain significant features such as his acerbic criticism on caste stratification, depiction of vitriolic realities of dalits everyday lives, uniqueness in handling such a crucial matter of untouchability and caste system,use of colloquial and barbaric language, atrocities committed by upper caste on the dalits,rustic and redolent style of the downtrodden which most readers find very subtle and challenging. To understand and appreciate his literary works reader needs to share the same sensibility as that of the oppressed in other words the Dalit consciousness. Moreover, the reader should also have certain familiarity as well as a feel for his peculiar vocabulary to avoid misinterpretations of his writings which he is often very callously subjected to as an obscene and vulgar writer.

Therefore researcher, since shares the similar social-economic and cultural background to some extent, feels that there is an urgent need for the study of such kind and consider it as a great opportunity to present Baburao Baghul's literary writings in the right light.

Research Aim and Objectives:

1. To critically examine Baburao Baghul's literary works as a revolutionary scathing indictment against the all-pervasive oppression and plight of Dalits in India.

2. To throw new light on Baburao Baghul's literary works stressing the need of an egalitarian society.

3. To examine the contribution of Baburao Baghul to Dalit literature in order to give the latter a place of prominence on the world literary map.

4. To emphasize the uniqueness of his contribution to Dalit literature both in Marathi and in English translation.

Research Problem and Hypothesis Statement:

To study under the title **"A Critical Assessment of Oppression and Plights of Dalits in Baburao Baghul's Selected Translated Works"** the researcher has the following probable hypothesis

1. Dalit literature has enriched Indian literature.
2. Baburao Baghul is one of the prominent writer of Dalit literature and he has depicted realistic life of dalits in India.
3. Baburao Baghul's literature depicts an objective description of Dalit's oppression and plight.

4. Baburao Baghul's literature presents the causes and remedies of the persecution of Dalits by Indian social system.

Operational Definition of Terms and Concepts:

Caste: Each of the hereditary classes *(Varnas)* of Hindu society that are considered as infallible and sacrosanct by ancient *Vedic* religious scriptures with different sets of sub-castes having distinct attributes and attitudes of hierarchy.

Dalits: Essentially Dalits by caste and socially backward i.e. members of scheduled castes, Neo- *Buddhists*, being exploited socially, economically and politically in the name of caste and religion are called Dalits.

Dalit Oppression: A prolonged cruel or unjust or inhumane treatment to dalits with the hypocritical and wicked structure of Caste system

Dalit Plight: A dangerous, difficult or otherwise unfortunate situation of dalits created by social evil named caste iniquity and injustice

Dalit movement: A social movement prominently inspired by the ideals of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. It is against the age-old caste based traditions (Caste system) and advocated socio-economic, political, gender and casteless equality in every domain of Indian life.

Dalit Literature: Inspired from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's social movement for equality and produced out of Dalit consciousness is called Dalit literature.

Review of Literature:

In India caste system is the most oppressive and exploitative system hypocritically created by upper caste with fraudulent and malicious intentions to subjugate and enslave one of the valorous, courageous and valiant races of the territory. This caste system is an embodiment of a rusticity of upper caste such as Brahmins and tribulation of lower or out-castes being known as untouchables or Shudras. A rancorous and mordant iniquities, injustices and inhuman practices were being meted out against these Shudras. The champions of human and equal rights question this oppression, persecutions and inequalities and raised voice against this heinousness practice of caste system and tried to fight for the rights of Shudras. The writing of those egalitarian, philanthropic writers demands equality, liberty and fraternity in the society. **Mahatma Jotiba Phule** contributed towards empowerment of the lower castes. His book '**Slavery'** focuses on the issue of malpractices in the society. **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedhar**, the

numero uno and champion and saviour of the lower caste vehemently attacked and criticized this caste system and promoted liberty, equality and fraternity in the society. He was at the helm of equal rights for everyone. Babasaheb's omnibus and maximum writing and speeches devoted to rectify caste system the social evil, were in being practice. His magnum opus **'Annihilation of Caste', 'Who were the Shudras'** and many more focus on the issue of caste, its roots, oppression of lower castes and remedies to annihilate caste for the holistic development of nation at a large.

Indian society with its history of oppression of Dalits, often fails to recognise the Dalit's contribution to the Indian literature through their distinctive criticism of the inhuman social system. Namdev Dhasal who symbolises the essence of Dalit protest poetry revolutionised the Marathi literary landscape with his unique style and inspired the entire movement of Dalit literature.

1960s was an important decade for Marathi literature. A number of new streams appeared during this period. Narayan Surve's poetry which portrayed the problems of the workers came into being during this period. This period was also characterised by the Little Magazine movement and emergence of the Angry Young Man in Marathi literature. Anna Bhau Sathe and Shankarrao Kharat had been writing about the Dalits. Narayan Surve's rebellious poetry was highly influenced by Marxism published in Little Magazine called Fakta. **His poetry is seen in his two** anthologies **Aisa Ga Mi Bramha** and **Majhe Vidyapith**. Poems in these anthologies have given a new direction to Marathi poetry.

The first representative collection of poems by the Dalits called **Akar** was published in the conference organised by Maharashtra Bauddha Sahitya Sabha 1967. *Akar* included poems by **Baburao Bagul**, **Daya Pawar, Arjun Dangle, Yadavrao gangurde, Bandhumadhav, Chokha Kamble, Hira Bansode etc.**

After 1968, thinking critics from Dalit society started to put forth their views about Dalit literature and its role. A number of young writers appeared in **Asmitadarsha**. Almost all Dalit writers started with poetry and unfurled various aspects of experience on various planes in their language. The poets like **Daya Pawar, Waman Nimbalkar, Arjun Dangle, Namdev Dhasal, J. V. Pawar, Yogiraj waghmare, Avinash Dolas, Yogendra Meshram** are few who developed during this period.

In 1972, **Golpitha** a monumental volume of poetry by Namdev Dhasal was published which shook the world of Marathi poetry and its traditional values. As young poet Dhasal expressed his experiences aggressively and portrayed the explosive acute pain of the Dalit. During the same time **Gaokusabaheril Kavita** was published by Waman Nimbalkar a portrayal of the heart wrenching condition of Dalits.

Baburao Baghul's **Jevha Mi Jaat Chorli Hoti (When I had concealed my caste), Maran Swasta Hot Ahe (Death is getting Cheaper) & Sud (Retaliation)** focuses on the intense pains, disrespect and slavery of the Dalits

Many researchers have done research on Baburao Baghul's literature. From the above discussion we can see that most of the researcher have studied Baburao Baghul's literature from Dalit point of view. From this we conclude that my research work and topic is new in the sense that I am going to study the oppression of Dalits and their plights in Baburao Baghul's literature which has not been done by researchers before.

Research Methodology:

The proposed study, **"A Critical Assessment of Oppression and Plights of Dalits in Baburao Baghul's Selected Translated Works"** is descriptive, analytical and critical in nature. This researcher will examine all the relevant primary and secondary sources such as books, web-links, journals, magazines, newspapers and the views of people who were closely associated with Baburao Baghul. The obtained data would be critically evaluated and analyzed.

Research Design:

For the meticulous structure and well understanding and comprehension the proposed research study will be divided into **five chapters** by the researcher

CHAPTER – I :

INTRODUCTION - DALIT LITERATURE; OPPRESSION AND PLIGHT OF DALITS

The first chapter of this research study will deal with the origin of Dalit literature and its roots in the oppression, persecution and iniquities suffered by the dalits. The main focus of the research would be to highlight the atrocities and inhuman treatment committed by the upper

caste against the lower caste and downtrodden people. In this chapter the researcher will be critically analyzed a works of literature produced by different writers to give in depth and insights of dalits oppression and plight. The different forms of the oppression which resulted into a irreparable plights of dalits will be dealed with. An understanding of oppression and plight play pivotal role in analyzing and exploring dalit literature.

CHAPTER - II:

BABURAO BAGHUL'S SHORT STORY COLLECTION 'WHEN I HID MY CASTE'

The second Chapter entitled will examine in detail the corpus of short story collection by Baburao Baghul named 'When I had concealed my caste'. This short story collection was written and published in 1963. In this chapter the researcher will deal with the all **ten short stories** included this short story collection. In each and every short story of this literary work, the writer projected stench of morbidity and rusticity of upper caste by depicting their cruelty and ruthlessness towards the lower caste. All the protagonist characters are from the lower caste and their exploitation is caste based. They suffers severe atrocities and inhuman treatment. The form of oppression adopted by the dominant caste are realistic one. The dalits are facing these kind of exploitation every day. An oppression and plight of dalits presented by Baburao Baghul in this short story collection is relevant in this contemporary time. The researcher will summarize and analyze these short stories to bring the same to the notice of community.

CHAPTER - III:

BABURAO BAGHUL'S SHORT STORY COLLECTION 'THE DEATH IS GETTING CHEAPER'

The third chapter entitled will highlight the vitriolic realities of the pangs of dalits. In this chapter the researcher will evaluate another cardinal short story collection of Baburao Baghul which published in 1969 and having cumulative **11 short stories**. As writer stresses upon his own experiences and observations of the lower class people's hardship and struggle to get sufficient basic needs to survive. They are literary dying due to starvation, unhygienic situation and inhuman practices against them. For the readers the strong meat is the oppression and

exploitation which ultimately resulted in death of the have-nots. A realistic description of the lives of the dalits which dumbfounded readers with an antipathy towards the dalits.

CHAPTER - IV:

RETALIATION AND SELECTED POEMS OF BABURAO BAGHUL

Sud is a prominent novel of Baburao Baghul which published in 1970. This masterpiece of Baghul could be adduced as a mainstay of dalit woman's and her family's victimization. Dalit woman's sexual abusing and harassment is the central theme of this novel which compel the researcher to include it in the proposed study. The main focus will to expose the hypocrisy and lechery of upper caste people with the Murali system. The women from lower caste was and is being forced, in oblation, to devote her whole life for the community service. In some part of Maharashtra, in this 21st century too, women are being forced to be Murali and this is very important form of oppression. With this novel the researcher will focus on the oppression of dalit woman and family and their plight for existence.

The researcher will stress on poems of Baburao Baghul which encapsulate barbarity and nefariousness of dominant society on the dalits. His poems in **Akar (Shape)** blazon indocility, bigotry and deception of the upper caste to subjugate and victimize the dalits.

CHAPTER - V :

CONCLUSION

The concluding fifth chapter **'Conclusion'** will summarise precisely the would be outcome of the research study.

PROBABLE DATE OF RESEARCH COMPLETION:

The present research is to be completed within time limits as stipulated by Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded. The proposed rough study would be completed in the span of thirty-six months under the guidance of Research Supervisor, allotted by SRTM University, Nanded, **Dr**.**Shaikh Mahemud Abdul Rahman,** Assistant Professor, Department of English, Shri Shivaji College, Parbhani

Tentative Scheme of Chapters:

Chapter I : Introduction - Dalit Literature; Oppression and Plight of Dalits

Chapter II: Baburao Baghul's Short Story Collection 'When I Hid My Caste

Chapter III: Baburao Baghul's Short Story Collection 'The Death Is Getting Cheaper'

Chapter IV: 'Retaliation' and Selected Poems of Baburao Baghul

Chapter V: Conclusion

Scope and Limitations / Delimitations of Study:

While taking up this task, researcher would like to restrict his study to Baburao Baghul's selected works which are his major mode of literary expression. His literary works have been translated in English by scholarly eminent bilingual Indian and foreign writers. The researcher, being a bilingual himself, takes an extra benefit of referring to both the versions of his original works in Marathi and their translation in English.

Selected works of Baburao Baghul will also be examined merely to study their bearings on his works. Unfortunately as Baburao Baghul is no longer alive it will not be possible to interview him, therefore, this researcher has to rely on existing interviews and biographical studies and their bearings on Baghul's works. An attempt will be made to interview people who were close to the writer including his family members. Moreover, researcher may find it challenging to unravel meaning of certain peculiar words from his selected works. Researcher will have to depend on the available interviews of the writer. Unfortunately all his work is not translated in English therefore it will be a herculean task for the researcher to translate some works by himself for this research work.

While critically analysing Babuaro Baghul's selected works, the researcher would like to apply certain sets of principles of Dalit aesthetics as against the general rules of aesthetics of literature. This study will be undertaking the entire historical perspective of Dalit writings with specific highlight on Baburao Baghul's writings against the backdrop of Dalit literature and Dalit movement.

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Date : / /

Research Student	**Research Supervisor**
(Bhosale Praful Pandit)	**(Dr.Shaikh Mahemud Adbul Raheman)**